

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINING AUTHORITY

To:
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PCT

WRITTEN OPINION

(PCT Rule 66)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 43967-13WO		Date of Mailing (day/month/year) 19 AUG 2004
International application No. PCT/US03/01583		REPLY DUE within 1 months/days from the above date of mailing
International filing date (day/month/year) 17 January 2003 (17.01.2003)	Priority date (day/month/year) 18 January 2002 (18.01.2002)	
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC IPC(7): E02D 29/02 and US Cl.: 405/262, 286, 284		
Applicant SHAW TECHNOLOGIES, INC.		

1. This written opinion is the first (first, etc.) drawn by this International Preliminary Examining Authority.
2. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:
 - I ☒ Basis of the opinion
 - II ☐ Priority
 - III ☐ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
 - IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
 - V ☒ Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2 (a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
 - VI ☐ Certain documents cited
 - VII ☒ Certain defects in the international application
 - VIII ☐ Certain observations on the international application

3. The applicant is hereby **invited to reply** to this opinion.

When? See the time limit indicated above. ~~The applicant may, before the expiration of that time limit, request this Authority to grant an extension. See rule 66.2(d).~~

How? By submitting a written reply, accompanied, where appropriate, by amendments, according to Rule 66.3. For the form and the language of the amendments, see Rules 66.8 and 66.9.

Also For an additional opportunity to submit amendments, see Rule 66.4.
For the examiner's obligation to consider amendments and/or arguments, see Rule 66.4 bis.
For an informal communication with the examiner, see Rule 66.6

If no reply is filed, the international preliminary examination report will be established on the basis of this opinion.

4. The final date by which the international preliminary

examination report must be established according to Rule 69.2 is: 17 May 2005 (17.05.2005).

Name and mailing address of the IPEA/US Mail Stop PCT, Attn: IPEA/US Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230	Authorized officer <i>P. Volpe for</i> Frederick L. Lagman Telephone No. 703-308-1134
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Form PCT/IPEA/408 (cover sheet)(July 1998)

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WRITTEN OPINION

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I. Basis of the opinion

1. With regard to the elements of the international application:*

- ☒ the international application as originally filed
- ☒ the description:
 pages 1-17, as originally filed
 pages NONE, filed with the demand
 pages NONE, filed with the letter of _____
- ☒ the claims:
 pages 18-22, as originally filed
 pages NONE, as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19
 pages NONE, filed with the demand
 pages NONE, filed with the letter of _____
- ☒ the drawings:
 pages 1-9, as originally filed
 pages NONE, filed with the demand
 pages NONE, filed with the letter of _____
- ☐ the sequence listing part of the description:
 pages NONE, as originally filed
 pages NONE, filed with the demand
 pages NONE, filed with the letter of _____

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language _____ which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- ☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- ☐ the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the written opinion was drawn on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in printed form.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages NONE
- ☐ the claims, Nos. NONE
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/fig NONE

5. ☐ This opinion has been drawn as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).

* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this opinion as "originally filed."

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V. Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. STATEMENT

Novelty (N)	Claims <u>4, 5, 7-9, and 17-23</u>	YES
	Claims <u>1-3, 6, 10-12, and 14-16</u>	NO
Inventive Step (IS)	Claims <u>4 and 5</u>	YES
	Claims <u>1-3, 6-12, and 14-23</u>	NO
Industrial Applicability (IA)	Claims <u>1-12 and 14-23</u>	YES
	Claims <u>NONE</u>	NO

2. CITATIONS AND EXPLANATIONS

Claims 1-3, 6, 10-12, and 14-16 lack an inventive step under PCT Article 33(3) as being obvious over Dueck '034. Dueck discloses the retaining wall block as broadly recited.

Claims 7-9 and 17-23 an inventive step under PCT Article 33(3) as being obvious over Dueck '034 in view of Miller et al '525. Miller discloses the groove 32 and anchoring element 44.

Claims 4 and 5 meet the criteria set out in PCT Article 33(2)-(3), because the prior art does not teach or fairly suggest L-shaped aligning element.

----- NEW CITATIONS -----

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VII. Certain defects in the international application

The following defects in the form or contents of the international application have been noted:

Claims 14-23 are objected to under PCT Rule 66.2(a)(iii) as containing the following defect(s) in the form or contents thereof: the numbering of the claims are incorrect. The claims start as 1-12 then 14-23. Either claim 13 was not included or claims 14-23 were incorrectly numbered.

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Supplemental Box

(To be used when the space in any of the preceding boxes is not sufficient)

TIME LIMIT:

The time limit set for response to a Written Opinion may not be extended. 37 CFR 1.484(d). Any response received after the expiration of the time limit set in the Written Opinion will not be considered in preparing the International Preliminary Examination Report.